

Instructions: Design Exceptions, Design Waivers, and Deviations from UDOT Standard Process

All projects no matter how funded, must meet UDOT design standards. The Design Exception, Design Waiver, and Deviation from UDOT Standard Process may be used in specific instances where it is cost effective to deviate from the design criteria or UDOT Standards. Cost is not always the consideration to deviate from design criteria or Standards. This Process should provide as much information and detail as possible to make an informed decision. Deviations to design criteria and UDOT Standards must be supported by engineering analysis and justification. Design Exceptions, Design Waivers, and Deviations from UDOT Standards will be approved on a case by case basis and will be evaluated with the Operational Safety Report.

Design Exceptions, Design Waivers, and Deviations from UDOT Standards can be initiated as early as the project concept phase. All Design Exceptions, Design Waivers, and Deviations from UDOT Standards requests are submitted to the UDOT Preconstruction Engineer once all Region signatures are obtained.

Part I: Design Exception/Design Waiver

Complete Part I of the form for Design Exceptions and Design Waivers.

1. Design Exceptions are required when the 12 Critical Elements or the Bridge Rail or Parapet Standards are not met in the design of a project.
2. Design Waivers are required when the Additional Design Criteria are not met in the design of a project.
3. Design Exceptions and Design Waivers are not required on Orange Book, Pavement Preservation projects for the following:
 - a) Minor concrete curb and gutter repair
 - b) Culvert extensions
 - c) Pavement Preservation that does not reduce lane and shoulder widths
 - d) Structure painting
4. Design Exceptions and Design Waivers are required on Purple Book projects where existing conditions change.

Part II: Deviation from UDOT Standards

Complete Part II of the form for Deviation from UDOT Standards.

1. Deviations from UDOT Standards are required on all projects based on the “Deviation from UDOT Standards Table of Items and Required Action” in Part II of the Form.
2. Do not make any changes to any federal program or project requirement. (Examples are MUTCD, Buy America, Disadvantaged Business Enterprise, Davis-Bacon, FHWA-1273, and Quality Assurance Program.)
3. Changes must be on a project-by-project basis and must be project specific.
4. Deviations are required when there is a Level 1 Deviation from UDOT Standards. Approval from the UDOT Central office, Preconstruction Engineer, is required for a Level 1 Deviation from UDOT Standards.
5. Deviations for Level 2 and Level 3 are to be included in the project file but do not require use of the Form. The recommendation is to use the Form to document the deviation along with supporting data but coordination outside of region level is not required. The region offices approve Level 2 and 3 Deviations.
6. Inclusion of Supplemental Specifications and Department Special Provisions is not required. While included in all appropriate projects specific approval as part of this process is not required unless with respect to a Department Special Provision it is changed for a project. In that case process it as a Level 2 or if required a Level 1.

Part III: Approval/Signatures

Prepared by information required for all submissions.

Project Manager and Region Preconstruction Engineer’s signature required for all submissions.

Region Director’s signature required for Deviation from UDOT Standard, Level 1 and Level 2 only.

Traffic and Safety Engineer’s signature required for all options except a Level 2 or 3 Deviation from UDOT Standards.

Preconstruction Engineer’s signature required for all options except a Level 2 or 3 Deviation from UDOT Standards.

FHWA requirement per current Stewardship and Oversight Agreement.

General: Process

Complete the UDOT Design Exception, Design Waiver, or Deviation from UDOT Standards (Level 1) form.

Select the type of request and enter the required information.

Obtain the required signatures.

Submit all copies to:
Preconstruction Engineer
Box 148460

Submit original and 2 copies. The Preconstruction Engineer will make any copies needed for FHWA coordination and approval.